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(71) Applicant (*for all designated States except US*): **AG-ID PTY LTD [AU/AU]; 328 Aberdeen Street, West Perth, Western Australia 6005 (AU).**

(72) Inventor; and

(75) Inventor/Applicant (*for US only*): **PFISTERSHAM-MER, Josef [AU/AU]; 17D/ 25 Victoria Avenue, Claremont, Western Australia 6010 (AU).**

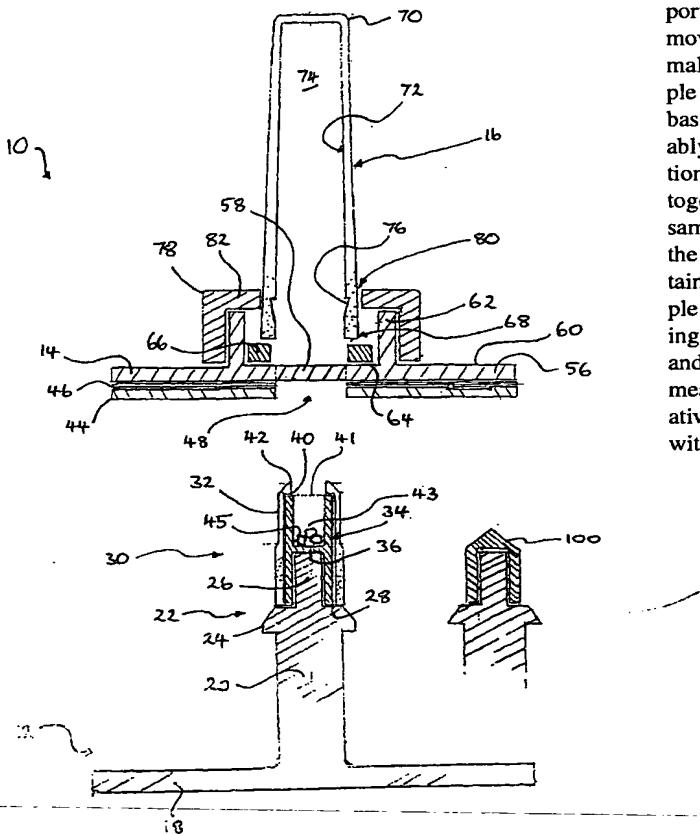
(74) Agent: **WRAY & ASSOCIATES; Level 4, The Quadrant, 1 William Street, Perth, Western Australia 6000 (AU).**

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(54) Title: **SAMPLING DEVICE**



(57) **Abstract:** A sampling device (10) characterised by a male portion comprising a male base portion (12) and a sample removal means (30), and a female portion comprising a first female base portion (14) and a sample container (16), the sample removal means (30) being removably located on the male base portion (12) and the sample container (16) being removably located at least in part within the first female base portion (14), wherein as the male and female portions are brought together the sample removal means (30) collects a biological sample (47) from an animal being tagged, is received through the first female base portion (14), and lodges in the sample container (16), this action in turn introducing the sample to a sample receiving space (74) within the sample container (16), pushing the sample container (16) from the first female base portion, and sealing the sample receiving space (74), the sample removal means (30) being provided with an amount of sample preparative or preservative (45) that is available to the sample (47) within the sample receiving space (74).

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